it wants to drink and puts it back afterwards. No one may go or dares to go and see it in its cavern unless he has fasted for three days and abstains from his wife. Otherwise he should not be able to see it, or he would be in danger of being bewitched by it, that is to say, killed.

2. Clothing

The Caribs go entirely naked without shame, the women as well as the men. I have scolded a captain for this but he only answered: "That no good for France, good for Carib." They use urucu [rocou; body paint] to redden their bodies which would otherwise be the color of olives. The women sometimes have a kind of legging which extends from the knee to ankle and which they consider to be fashionable. Men and women wear, when they have them, necklaces of glass beads or crystal, or small, well-matched bones.

There is a man whom we called the Pilot who among them is considered to be one of their foremost captains and is an old friend and loyal to the French. When this man came to visit the governor he wore a hat on his head as a sign that he was beloved and esteemed by the French. The others were as bare-headed as they were naked. They bound their hair, which was not too long, behind their head, and passed through it feathers of the aras [macaw], flamingo, and other birds. These feathers hung from behind, and they also fastened in the same place some trinkets in their manner. They had plucked their beards. Arlet, a brother of the Pilot, and himself a captain, had some small pieces of brass hanging from his lip, chin, and nose.

3. Occupations

Women are unhappy and are treated as slaves, for it is required of them to work in the gardens, tend the family duties, and do everything except go to war, fish, or hunt. If there should be large trees to fell the husband will sometimes take the trouble to do it. They have many wives, whom they take and leave as they wish. They treat them very badly and sometimes kill them, having as a people no justice and no superior authority. Each one does as he wishes and is acquitted of the most horrible crimes if he says that he was "drunk

276 first time, and when fathers make their sons warriors or when they
786 include them among those capable of going to war. They also hold drinking parties when they want to put a canoe to sea after it is newly built in the mountains. They call in all their neighbors who work for several hours and drink for the rest of the day. They also call in help to clear a new garden or when they make a new house. All their
[534] vins, ouicou, or debauches are accompanied by ribaldry. Some play the flute, others sing, and they make a kind of music which according to their tastes is sweet. The old women who never sing unless
[523] they are drunk, sing the bass notes with hoarse voices. The young people sing the higher notes with a piercing noise. There is a girl who holds a calabash full of small stones. She shakes it in accom-
276 paniment to the music of the others.
786 During the time that these living violins are humming, three or
535 four of the most clever among them have themselves rubbed all over their body with a resinous, sticky water. They cover themselves with
[543] feathers and masquerade among the entire assembly taking a thousand postures and dancing in such a barbarous way that it is annoying rather than entertaining. One man holds his right arm extended over the shoulders of another. He in return, has his left arm around the neck of his companion. All the others follow them in pairs in the same way, dancing around the carbet. The whole assembly laughs in amusement at this buffoonery. It continues until the women bring
276 each of the dancers a calabash of ouicou, which is as much as two
786 quarts as measured in Paris. No matter how drunk they are it is necessary to empty the calabash even if it kills them. If someone can no longer drink he is seized by one of the strongest among the company who embraces him from behind. The strong Carib so forcibly squeezes the other man's belly by this embrace that he is emptied of his excess through both mouth and bottom. Thus he is compelled to finish the calabash. Afterwards he starts to dance again.

Strange as it may seem, the master of the carbet who has invited everyone does not participate in the debauchery. It seems that he should never mingle with the group. He stands upright in front of the door resting his club on his shoulder as if he were a sentry, to prevent any brawl that might break out.

[69] The Caribs do not believe that drunkeness is a crime, but consider it only a diversion. One sees the women drinking to excess just like